

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL
ROOM 217 - 7:00 P.M.
May 13, 2014**

Minutes

In attendance: Commission members Judy Borden, Judy Wyman Kelly (secretary), David Knishkowsky, Mary-Ann Langton, Marcia Lewis, Margaret Liu, Fiona Mohring (chair), and two Conard students, Jonathan Keach-Longo and Isiah Jefferson.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Fiona M.
2. Minutes from February 11, 2013 meeting were approved with several corrections:
 - a. Patricia Hale's name should be spelled Haile.
 - b. Commission member Chester Fernandez was attendance at the February meeting.
3. New member, Judy Borden, was welcomed. She gave a short introduction to her background and professional experience.
4. David K. and Judy K reported on their meeting with the WH Town Manager and Police Chief Gove regarding the Doug Glanville incident and alleged racial profiling. The meeting was congenial and all parties expressed an interest in pursuing activities and events in West Hartford that would encourage community building and conversations about race. Nothing definite was planned.
5. Gloria Mengual from Everyday Democracy was unable to attend so David K. spoke on her behalf. Gloria M. is inviting Commission members to participate in an effort to inform more WH parents about the magnet schools in WH, in particular the new Charter Oak School, and also to erode any potential negative impressions of the magnet schools. The WH Community Connections is an organization working on this effort with Everyday Democracy. **Fiona M. and Judy B.** volunteered to go to their June meeting.
6. Update on MLK Day 2014—it was decided to focus on Human Rights Day (Dec. 10) and not try to participate in MLK day.
7. Changes to website—Renee McCue is the person to contact regarding updating the Human Rights webpage. The mission and ordinance both need updating to mirror what is in the CT state ordinance. A deadline of next Commission meeting was approved for making the changes. **Fiona M.** will look into it.
8. It was decided there will be no formal presence at Celebrate W.H. in June. There was discussion of perhaps handing out business cards. **Fiona M.** will look into this possibility.

9. U.N. Human Rights Day program (December 10, 2014)—the group decided to focus their efforts on this day. **Margaret L.** will look into having a banner made and hanging it at Farmington and Main Street intersection.
10. Outreach ideas were discussed, including:
 - *bumper stickers,
 - *partnering with other groups,
 - *outreach to public schools (clubs such as Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)—**Fiona M.**
 - *National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ)—**David K.**
 - *establishing a presence on the West Hartford Patch—**Margaret L.**
 - *creating a facebook page—**Judy K.**
 - *connecting with West Hartford TV—**Judy K.**
 - *connecting with churches, synagogues, etc.—in the future?
 - *finding a student liaison—**Margaret L.**
11. David K. suggested inviting future guests, such as Police Chief, the Town Atty. to discuss FOIA, members of So. Windsor HRC, etc. **David K.** will look into it.
12. Other issues—Fiona M. completed a certificate for “Understanding Parliamentary Procedures.” Fiona M. also enjoyed meeting and talking with people at the Coffee/Talk event last Saturday at the Faxon Branch library. Several other Commission members were also in attendance at the event.
13. Old business—Filling HRC vacancies—we still have one opening for a Republican member.
14. Meeting adjourned at 8:39.